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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,204	11/27/2001	Katsumi Ohashi	15115.013001	9552

22511 7590 05/12/2005

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EXAMINER

CHANG, JON CARLTON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/995,204	Applicant(s) OHASHI, KATSUMI	
	Examiner Jon Chang	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/12/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/29/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Applicant's Submission

1. Applicant's submission filed April 12, 2005, has been entered and considered. Applicant requests that the Office Action mailed on January 12, 2005, be remailed and the period for reply be restarted, because the Office Action had been returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as undelivered by the United Postal Service. The Office Action was returned because it had been mailed to an old address which was no longer valid. Applicant has provided sufficient evidence to show that a correspondence address change had been submitted in November 2001, prior to the mailing of the Office Action. Because Applicant did not receive the Office Action due to an error on the part of the USPTO, the Office Action is being remailed, and the period for reply restarted. The current Office Action duplicates and replaces the Office Action mailed January 12, 2005.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because:

Figs. 11(b)-11(d) do not appear to be correct. The specification in paragraph [0032] indicates that in Fig.11(b), the 2nd and 3rd ranking candidates should be "," (comma) and "'" (apostrophe). The specification also indicates that the 2nd candidate in both Figs. 11(c) and 11(d) should be "I". These are not shown in the figures.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate

prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 6, in line 2, "having an images" is ungrammatical.

Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-12 are allowed.

The invention of claims 1 and 7 compares the candidate character having a highest similarity degree with the reference character, and if they equate, the *printed character* is determined to be correct. If they do not equate, the printed character is

determined to be incorrect. These features as claimed, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1. Claims 8-12 depend from claim 7.

References Cited

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 5,329,598 to Geist discloses a method and apparatus for analyzing character strings, which compares character strings to a predetermined list of correct character strings. The correct character string producing a unique lowest comparison value is determined to be the correct character string intended by the input character string.

U.S. Patent 5,764,813 to Murayama et al. discloses an image processing method and device which determines image quality of image data.

U.S. Patent 5,909,509 to Chiang et al. teaches use of a table of similar-looking characters for character recognition.

U.S. Patent 6,198,846 to Nishiwaki discloses a character recognition system, which recognizes characters using a character recognition dictionary, and the recognition result is verified using rules. Nishiwaki is considered one of the closer prior arts.

U.S. Patent 6,246,794 to Kagehiro et al. discloses a method for reading characters. The patent teaches: a character classification dictionary (i.e., a database);

a town name dictionary and a street number dictionary (i.e., reference characters); calculating a similarity degree between an actual image of characters and characters in the dictionary, and retrieving characters having the highest similarity degree. Kagehiro does not disclose that if the candidate character having a highest similarity degree and the reference character equate, the printed character is determined to be correct. If they do not equate, the printed character is determined to be incorrect. Kagehiro is considered to the closest prior art.

Japanese Patent Publication 8-320931 teaches inspecting the quality of characters on the surface of electronic parts.

Japanese Patent Publication 9-120432 teaches comparing image data of characters stamped on steel materials with character patterns prepared beforehand.

Japanese Patent Publication 2000-82113 teaches collating characters from an input image with those of a standard dictionary. If the result is not right, then collation is performed with an extended dictionary.

Conclusion

6. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

The objection to the drawings and to claim 6.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.


A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-7417. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on (571)272-7414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jon Chang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2623

Jon Chang
May 10, 2005